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March 6, 1939

Mr. George Edwards,
Basketball Coach,
University of Missouri,
Columbia, Missouri.

Dear George:

I acknowledge receipt of your special delivery letter of the 5th instant which arrived this morning. I am sorry for anything that I may have had Mr. Harold Olsen, the chairman of the general committee, say to you, but I felt that it was the better part of wisdom to have Mr. Olsen say it than for it purportedly to have come from me because so many of our actions at times are fraught with distrust. I wanted to be perfectly above board in all these cases so that there would be no misconstruction placed upon the action of the chairman of the committee.

You will kindly refer to the second paragraph of my letter addressed to you and the two other members of the committee in which we specifically stated that we desired all the cooperation and intelligent suggestions from Mr. Edwards, as well as his personal attendance at the meeting. So you can see that we have insisted and we do want you present. Certainly I do not know of any reason now, the way the set up is, why you should not be on call and participate in all the general discussions preliminary to the time of the actual decision for drawing.

At first I did not know how to take your gun jumping statement, but after re-reading it two or three times I think now that you meant that you had already made the decision not to come after your conference with Mr. Shirley. But that sentence of yours suggests one thing to me, and that is that I am afraid you jumped the gun on me by publishing my idea as to the play off between the four teams possibly concerned - Drake, Oklahoma Aggies, Missouri and Oklahoma. We discussed that in confidence the afternoon of our game. Really, I was sorry that that was printed because that was only one of my ideas and I was sure that there would be other more valuable ones from the committee and we could poll those in the committee meeting and definitely decide what our committee should do.

I now understand that Drake has already tied with the Oklahoma Aggies, and now the best the Oklahoma Aggies can do is a tie for the championship by beating Washburn tonight. My reactions now are that should a tie result in both the Missouri Valley Conference and our Big Six Conference, the play-off games should be paired in such a way that the Big Six, namely Missouri and Oklahoma, will play it off for the Big Six championship, and the Oklahoma Aggies and